



Minnesota Ag News – Farm Labor

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Hired Workers Unchanged in Lake Region; Wage Up 64 Cents from One Year Ago

Lake Region: There were 67,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Lake Region (Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin) the week of October 10-16, 2010, according to the USDA, NASS, Minnesota Field Office. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$11.88 per hour during the October 2010 survey week, up 64 cents from October 2009. The number of hours worked averaged 37.5 for hired workers during the survey week, compared with 38.0 hours in October 2009. In Minnesota, part of the Lake Region, there were 7.0 days suitable for fieldwork during the week, compared to 1.6 days during the 2009 reference week. Weekly temperatures were 5.8 degrees above normal statewide and no measurable precipitation was recorded across most of the state.

United States: There were 1,157,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 10-16, 2010, up 4 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 826,000 were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 331,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$11.13 per hour during the October 2010 reference week, up 20 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.49 per hour, up 27 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$10.27 per hour compared with \$10.28 a year earlier.

WORKERS ON FARMS, HOURS WORKED PER WEEK, AND WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS, LAKE REGION AND UNITED STATES, OCTOBER 2010						
Workers on Farms Hired Workers ^{3/} Hours Worked Hired Workers ^{3/} Workers By Work Type Field Livestock Field & Livestock All Workers ^{3/}	Lake Region ^{1/}			United States ^{2/}		
	October 11-17 2009	July 11-17 2010	October 10-16 2010	October 11-17 2009	July 11-17 2010	October 10-16 2010
	1,000 Workers					
	67	64	67	829	885	826
	Hours Per Week					
	38.0	34.4	37.5	39.0	40.7	41.7
	Dollars Per Hour					
	11.03	11.09	11.58	10.22	10.09	10.49
	10.10	9.47	10.06	10.28	10.15	10.27
10.65	10.45	11.05	10.24	10.11	10.43	
11.24	11.10	11.88	10.93	10.79	11.13	
1/ Lake Region = Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin. 2/ Excludes Alaska. 3/ Excludes agricultural service workers.						